February 23, 2023 Members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Proposed Budget on Education

Dear Members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify related to the proposed budget on education.

Year after year

Year after year, we seem to come back here, to once again campaign
And year after year someone is always left disappointed
If the education of children was a priority of the country we probably would not be here If we valued the education of children, we probably would not be here today If we believed in equity we would not be here today
More over addressing the state of our school systems

Money, some value money more than life
Some value money over their own soul
Some use it to measure their success
But it is nothing more than a tool, a resource, which we give value to

I can imagine since there IS a surplus MANY other organizations, infrastructures and systems are all looking for additional funding

I wonder how many testimonies before I got here requested the same I wonder how many testimonies after me will request the continue to request the same

Last year I spoke to my children about the 2.4 Billion dollar surplus This year i have informed them about the 6.4 Billion dollar surplus & to my surprise Danbury charter and Norwalk excellence are still being ignored Research says that Being ignored creates feelings of self-doubt, feeling a lack of control, and feeling not worthy of attention A feeling I pray adolescents do not have to experience, ever If we believed in equity we would not be here today

Men and women put their hand on and swear by something that is holy Yet the actions that follow indicate hypocrisy

Jesus said "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits.

In other words, look out for those who lie, who disguise themselves as an ally or friend but hide their true intentions. You will recognize them by their works or actions or lack thereof.

Ask yourself where do you stand in this current circumstance? Do you consider the current actions or lack thereof neglect? Do you predict us coming back to campaign for the same thing next year?

Thank you and peace be unto you all.

Respectfully,
Sidney Fernandez
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